

REMARKS

The issues outstanding in the Office Action mailed August 5, 2005, are the objection to the specification and the objections to the claims, as well as the rejections under 35 U.S.C §§101, 112, 102 and 103. Reconsideration of these issues, in view of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

Applicants have provided a Brief Description of the Drawings. Withdrawal of the objection to the Specification is therefore respectfully requested.

Objections to Claims

Claims 3 and 6 have been objected to as being of improper dependent form. Claim 3 has been amended so that it finds antecedent basis in claim 1. Claim 1 has moreover been amended in order to correct an obvious typographical error.

It is clear that the sum of the numerical value of the indices in $C_nF_mH_o$ should be $m+o=2n+1$, in accordance with the typical formula for an alkyl radical of C_nH_{2n+1} . Claim 1 accordingly provides the antecedent basis for all of the compounds of claim 6. Withdrawal of the objections to the claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C §112

Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph. It is argued, at page 3 of the Office Action, that the Specification fails to define "prodrugs" of estrogen and thus does not convey to one of ordinary skill in the art that the Applicant had possession of the claimed invention. In fact, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art well knows that a prodrug is a pharmacological substance administered in inactive or significantly less active form, and metabolized in the body (in vivo) into the active compound. For example, it is well known that sulfamates are prodrugs of the corresponding steroids. In view of the well known use of the term, it is clear that, without more, Applicants clearly have possession of the claimed

invention and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 8 - 16 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C §112. Various grammatical and typographical changes have been made to the claims, in order to place them in a format usual for U.S. practice. It is submitted that the issues raised at page 4 of the Office Action are, accordingly, moot.

Claim 14, reciting "prodrug" has been discussed above. It is clear that the term is not indefinite, in view of its well understood meaning to one of ordinary skill in the art.

With respect to claims 15 and 16, antecedent basis for the estrogens is provided by amending the dependency of these claims to properly depend on claim 14.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1, 3 - 5 and 7 - 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(b) over WO 99/45023 (equivalent to U.S. '582). Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested. The '582 patent discloses solely compounds which are 2-hydrogen. Thus, clarification of the present claims clearly obviates this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C §103

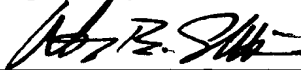
Claims 1 and 3 - 13 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103 over the '023 disclosure. Reconsideration of this rejection is also respectfully requested. As noted above, the WO (equivalent to the U.S. '582) does not admit of compounds which are 2-substituted. It is moreover noted that claim 2 has been indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, it is submitted that the clarification of the present claims clearly obviates this rejection, and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3 - 13 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C §103 over Schubert '628. This patent also does not disclose compounds which are other than 2-unsubstituted. Accordingly, it is submitted, in the absence of motivation to substitute the steroid system at this point, as acknowledged by the allowability of claim 2, the references fails to suggest the present claims and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, and passage to issue is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner has any questions or comments, she is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: GULDE-0002

Date: February 6, 2006

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